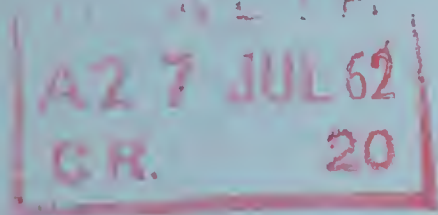


ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCORPORATING THE REPORT OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1961

URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1961

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor T. Parkinson, J.P. (Chairman)

Councillor R. Cheetham (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D. Bennett, J.P., W. Darbyshire, A. Evans, H. Fairhurst (deceased), W. C. Love, G. H. Nickeas, S. Preston, J. A. Simpkin, J.P., Mrs. A. Taberner, J. W. Ward, R. Winstanley.

HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Councillor W. Darbyshire (Chairman)

Councillor W. C. Love (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D. Bennett, J.P., R. Cheetham, A. Evans, H. Fairhurst, T. Parkinson, J.P., S. Preston, Mrs. A. Taberner.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health : G. H. Potter, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : W. Coupe, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.
Certified Inspector of Meat and Food.

Tel. : Wigan 82603.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ORRELL.

July, 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of Orrell Urban District Council.

Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Orrell for the year 1961. It has been compiled as in previous years, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I would like to take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the officials of the Council, and especially to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. Coupe, for valuable help and co-operation received throughout the year.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Area in Acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,617 |
| Population, Census, 1961 (prov.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10,663 |
| Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (Mid-1961) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10,663 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses : | | | | | | | |
| (a) Census | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,528 |
| (b) End of 1961 according to Rate Books | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,611 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £131,770 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £533 0s. 0d. |

The District is mainly residential with development centred in two areas linked up by the main Wigan-Ormskirk Road.

The advent of the Heinz factory has brought many problems to the Health Department, but liaison with a management so willing to co-operate, and setting themselves the high standards demanded by modern food technology, has resulted in an establishment which is a model of hygienic practice.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | | <i>Total</i> | | <i>M.</i> | | <i>F.</i> |
|--|---|--------------|-----|-----|--------------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|
| Live Births | } | Legitimate | ... | ... | 196 | ... | 101 | ... | 95 |
| | | Illegitimate | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Total | | | | | 198 | ... | 102 | ... | 96 |
| Still Births | | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 4 | ... | 1 |
| Deaths of Infants under one year of age | } | Legitimate. | | | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 |
| | | Illegitimate | | | — | ... | — | ... | — |
| Total | | | | | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 |
| Total No. of Deaths | | ... | ... | ... | 130 | ... | 67 | ... | 63 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Adjusted Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population. | 16·9 |
| Birth rate for England and Wales | 17·4 |
| Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population. | 15·0 |
| Death rate for England and Wales | 12·0 |
| Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | 24·6 |
| Still birth rate for England and Wales | 18·7 |

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1957-61.

| | | Live Births | | Deaths (all causes) | | Stillbirths | | Maternal Mortality | | Infant Mortality | | | |
|----------------------|-----|------------------------|--|------------------------|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1000 popu- lation | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1000 popu- lation | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1000 total births | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1000 total births | Total | | Neo-natal | |
| ORRELL U.D.C. | | | | | | | | | | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1000 live births | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1000 live births |
| Year 1961 | ... | 198 | 16.9 | 130 | 11.7 | 5 | 24.6 | Nil | Nil | 3 | 15.2 | 1 | 5.1 |
| Year 1960 | ... | 151 | 15.4 | 111 | 10.5 | 5 | 42.0 | Nil | Nil | 1 | 6.6 | - | - |
| Year 1959 | ... | 149 | 14.3 | 108 | 10.4 | 4 | 32.5 | Nil | Nil | 5 | 35.0 | 1 | 6.7 |
| Year 1958 | ... | 142 | 14.0 | 135 | 13.3 | 1 | 34.0 | Nil | Nil | 2 | 14.1 | Nil | - |
| Year 1957 | ... | 161 | 15.5 | 84 | 10.5 | 1 | 37 | Nil | Nil | 2 | 13 | 1 | 7 |
| Ave. 5 years 1957-61 | | 160 | 15.2 | 113.3 | 11.3 | 3.1 | 34.0 | Nil | Nil | 2.6 | 16.8 | 0.6 | 3.8 |

Adjusted Live Birth-rate

Death Rate

16.9

15.0

The following table shows the chief causes of death and the number of deaths during 1961 compared with the figures of 1960 :

TABLE II.

| | | | | | | 1961 | 1960 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System | ... | ... | — | ... | 1 | | |
| Tuberculosis, other | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | — |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | — |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | — |
| Meningococcal Infections | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | — |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | — |
| Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases | ... | ... | — | ... | — | | |
| Cancer | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | ... | 18 |
| Leukæmia and Aleukæmia | ... | ... | — | ... | — | | |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | — |
| Vascular lesions of the nervous system | ... | ... | 24 | ... | 23 | | |
| Coronary disease, Angina | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 | ... | 15 |
| Hypertension with Heart Disease | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | | |
| Other Heart Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 | ... | 20 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | 5 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | — |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 4 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 2 |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory System | ... | ... | 3 | ... | — | | |
| Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | ... | ... | — | ... | — | | |
| Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | | |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions | ... | ... | — | ... | — | | |
| Congenital Malformations | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | ... | 2 |
| Ill Defined Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | 13 |
| Accident, Suicide and other violent causes | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 3 | | |
| Motor Accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| All other causes | ... | ... | — | ... | — | | |
| Totals | ... | ... | 130 | ... | 111 | | |

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Arrangements: Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Department of the Wigan Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratories, Monsall Hospital, Manchester. When the necessity arises the services of the County Analyst are utilised for Chemical Analysis.

The Disinfestation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, together with the Curator of the National History Museum at Bolton County Borough, provide expert services for the identification of insect and other pests.

Assessments of special food problems are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Colindale and frozen food matters are referred to Low Temperature Research Stations either at Cambridge or Chipping Campden. Other processed foodstuffs and packing problems are referred to the appropriate trade research bureaux.

Liaison exists between the various authorities concerned with Radiation. The U.K.A.E.A. with the Headquarters of the Safety and Health Physics Section at Risley are available for advice on general matters. It is hoped that your Inspector will be able to undertake an approved course of training in Radiation Hazards and Monitoring Techniques for many facets of the public welfare will still fall upon Local Authorities and their officers in the Atomic Age.

Ambulance Services: Infectious, non-infectious, accident and maternity cases are dealt with by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the Ambulance Station at Billinge.

The arrangements are adequate and satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948: No action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

W. COUPE, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.

1.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply: The inauguration of the Makerfield Water Board has rationalised the collection and distribution of water over the large field of the Douglas Valley and gradually the benefits of ample safe and soft water will become generally available.

The pressing need for the modernising of obsolescent homes without modern toilet arrangements will accelerate the growing demand for potable water year by year. The organisation responsible for water supply will continue to face the increasing needs of our civilisation not only in our homes and factories but as the handmaid of our civil life. The need for adequate water for fire fighting, sewer flushing, etc., are present pressing needs and the potential need for supplies for decontamination in the event of atomic catastrophes are points for the future.

The supervision of the potable qualities of the water supply continues to be a prime necessity, especially with so many disturbances in supply arising from main re-organisation.

Thus the bacteriological assays and interpretations will continue as a statutory part of the Public Health Department's duties.

Sewerage and Drainage: The problem of overloaded and inadequate sewers still rears its head and the time is long overdue when we should rationalise the system. Some of the burden we have placed on our own backs, by permitting the connection of large numbers of road gullies to the foul sewer system instead of maintaining by good husbandry the culverts and field drains which have become silted and lie neglected and become "lost."

Several sites where surges are common in storm condition are menaces to health and comfort and together with the inadequate "connection" to the Wigan Trunk sewer at Gathurst cause unnecessary and harmful pollution to our water courses and streams.

The pollution of the Dean Brook, Porters' Wood and the River Douglas itself is a cause of anxiety and the amelioration of our inadequate sewers should stand high in our list of priorities.

Sanitary Accommodation :

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-------|---|
| No. of Privy Middens in the District | ... | ... | 7 |
| „ Closets attached to Privy Middens | ... | 6 | |
| „ Pail Closets | ... .. | 2 | |
| „ Freshwater Closets | ... .. | 3,898 | |
| „ Waste Water Closets | ... .. | Nil | |
| „ Dry Ashpits | ... .. | 3 | |
| „ Moveable Ashbins | ... .. | 3,672 | |
| „ Houses on Water Carriage System | ... | 3,600 | |

Sanitary Inspections :

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------|--|
| No. of Premises Visited | ... .. | 904 | |
| „ Visits | ... .. | 2,679 | |
| Nuisances | ... .. | 279 | |
| Nuisances Abated | ... .. | 233 | |
| No. of Notices : (a) Informal | ... .. | 208 | |
| (b) Statutory | ... .. | 27 | |
| Legal Proceedings | ... .. | Nil | |

The following inspections were carried out during the year under the provisions of the Public Health and Housings Acts :

| | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| Housing (under Public Health and Housing Acts) | 603 | |
| Sanitary Conveniences | ... .. | 66 |
| Drainage | ... .. | 230 |
| Accumulations | ... .. | 41 |
| Keeping of Animals | ... .. | 12 |
| Inns | ... .. | 8 |
| Enquiries after Infectious Disease | ..... | 26 |
| Refuse Collection | ... .. | 280 |
| Refuse Disposal | ... .. | 201 |
| Dirty and/or Verminous Premises | ... .. | 41 |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds | ... .. | 10 |
| Miscellaneous Visits | ... .. | 151 |
| Schools | ... .. | 17 |

Schools : Most of the playgrounds are adequately paved.

The school staff and employees in the school meals service are taking an increasing interest in hygiene. The Divisional Executive have complied with all my suggestions on points where improvements could be made and no case of infection or complaint arose from this source.

All schools have adequate washing facilities.

Tents, etc. : No formal camping is permitted within the district. Occasional transient workers station their vans with temporary permission.

A great deal of work has been necessitated by the presence of numerous " camp " sites set up by employees of the Motor-Way Project.

Swimming Baths, etc. : There are no facilities for swimming within the district, an omission which for educational and recreational purposes should be seriously studied by all who are interested in the welfare and activities of the youth of the District.

Atmospheric Pollution : Observations are kept on all industrial installations.

Domestic smoke is the main source of pollution.

The implementation of the " Clean Air Act, 1956 " will have little effect within our district as our problem is wind borne from the industrial areas on our flanks, but a start should be made with our own domestic problem.

Common Lodging Houses : There are no common lodging houses within the district.

Factories : These are subject to inspection as occasion demands and the necessary representations made to owners or occupiers. Most establishments have completely satisfactory toilets, etc.

The new Heinz Factory sets a very high standard of accommodation.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for puposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| <i>Premises</i> | <i>Number on Register</i> | <i>Number of</i> | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | <i>Inspections</i> | <i>Written Notices</i> | <i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| (i) Factories under Local Authorities ... | 17 | 38 | 3 | — |
| (ii) Factories not in (1) under Local Authority ... | 17 | 39 | 1 | — |
| (iii) Other Premises ... | 7 | 8 | — | — |
| Total ... | 41 | 85 | 4 | — |

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| <i>Particulars</i> | <i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i> | | <i>Referred</i> | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <i>Found</i> | <i>Remedied</i> | <i>To H.M. Inspector</i> | <i>By H.M. Inspector</i> | <i>Prosecu- tions</i> |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| Want of cleanliness (S.I.) ... | — | — | | | |
| Inadequate Ventila- tion ... | — | — | | | |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient ... | 2 | 2 | | | |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective ... | 1 | 1 | | | |
| (c) Not separate for sexes ... | — | — | | | |
| Ineffective drainage of floors ... | — | — | | | |
| Total ... | 3 | 3 | | | |

Rodent Control.—Sewer : Test Baiting and Treatment.

The test baiting and treatment of infested sewers continues to be the main bulwark in our control measures designed to confine the rat to close limits of operation.

The depredations of rodents if left to proliferate are costly and highly dangerous. The rat is a complete parasite on our social structure and it is only by the strictest repression of this pest that our homes and living areas are not fouled.

The continuous drive to educate all members of the public in the reporting of rodents and hygienic precautions necessary to discourage their presence is absolutely necessary to avoid flare-ups of infestation.

Rat and mouse control is today more and more a necessity and the control techniques are better understood and practised—but the authorities are dependent on their residents and their neighbouring councils for co-operation in report and positive action in the fight to control these pests.

Dwellings are treated free under the direction of the Public Health Inspector by a part-time Rodent Operator.

The treatment of business, farm and other premises is done on a chargeable basis and regular inspection ensures a reasonable freedom from the depredations of Rats and Mice.

| <i>Type of Property</i> | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----|
| <i>Non-Agricultural.</i> | | | <i>Agricultural.</i> | |
| | <i>Dwelling houses.</i> | <i>All other</i> | | |
| (a) No. of properties in district . | 3,610 | 536 | ... | 16 |
| (b) No. of properties inspected . | 177 | 179 | ... | — |
| (c) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) ... | | | | |
| (d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by : | | | | |
| Rats : Major | — | — | ... | — |
| Minor | 80 | 67 | ... | 10 |
| Mice : Major | — | — | ... | — |
| Minor | 18 | 12 | ... | 1 |
| (e) No. of infested properties treated | 98 | 79 | ... | 11 |
| (f) Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) ... | 106 | 102 | ... | 16 |
| (g) No. of "Block" control schemes carried out ... | — | 1 | ... | — |
| (h) Any other action : Woodlands and Streams contiguous to the built-up Areas surveyed and treated. | | | | |

HOUSING.

(a) *Local Authority*: The delays met with in embarking upon housing programmes are vexatious in the extreme. More so is this the case when, after years of preliminaries, the scheme is one of rehabilitation of slums. The years of reclamation have now been swallowed by the individual representations and closures and now the occupants of houses long decayed stand apart and await the long overdue rebuilding.

So pressing has the problem become that there has been an involuntary swing to try to re-claim some older houses with the semblance of a solid shell. Thus we have now come to think, that with delays of five or six years being common, it is wise to repair a house to reasonable standards for a further life of ten years. Given adequate safeguards this "repair" must be one method whereby practical improvements in housing can continue.

A disheartening feature of the whole housing question is undoubtedly the apathy shown in grant aided improvements. Neither the landlord, faced with further capital outlay, nor the tenant with a rent raise of often double what he is paying, look with any favour on the scheme. As either party is in a position to sabotage proposals before commencement it is little wonder that no improvements are made in the mass of rented houses.

It is an unrealistic situation of stagnation and until compulsion is put into practice hundreds of little houses will remain unprovided with any modern amenity other than the television set.

The Rent Act, 1957: This has now subsided to the role of watchdog and is rarely invoked to obtain the statutory remedial certificates of disrepair. Both sides now understand that there are limits to which one can go, but the increased rents have not had the complete result of "fully repaired houses" which was hoped.

The energy and initiative necessary to embark upon a complicated series of paper barrages is far too trying for most tenants. The landlords as a whole, to keep the peace, at least do some token repairs. Whilst this keeps an uneasy truce between the two main parties a third party has now entered the scene. There are far too many jobbing builders who have a "get rich quick" approach to the glut of small repairs, and the exasperations and repeated requests for return to jobs makes heavy weather for the Health Inspector.

Statutory Action : The informal representation and consequent action of the owners and agents has replaced the statutory methods of obtaining the necessary repairs to houses in all but a hard-core of cases. In these latter the complaint to the Council and the service of a "set period" notice usually has the desired effect. It is rare nowadays to have to take legal action over housing and nuisances and a far cry from the days when little work was done without at least a statutory notice of disrepair.

The field of demolition and closure has a different aspect and where the final solution is sought, owners now fight hard to save houses whose carcass might be sound and upon which they are prepared to spend money to give it a further life.

Study of the statistics of our Slum Clearance Programme is illuminating. The outstanding item of seven houses, the subject of statutory undertakings to repair is explained by the fact that some re-housing is required before the necessary possession for repairs can be obtained.

POST WAR SLUM CLEARANCE ACTION.

Total number of houses officially represented as unfit for human habitation : 140

| | |
|--|-----|
| Demolished | 88 |
| (a) Undertaking to repair completed | 10 |
| (b) Undertaking to repair not completed | 7 |
| (c) Void—undertakings not to re-let | 2 |
| (d) Occupied, awaiting rehousing before demolition | 14 |
| (e) Void—awaiting demolition (some adjacent houses still occupied) | 19 |
| Total | 140 |

To expedite item (b) two tenants will require to be moved. Thus a total of 16 units of accommodation will be necessary to complete the programme to date (b and d).

The full commitments, however, will depend on the rate of re-building for rehousing and whether the Council feel that the following houses included in the original programme should be included.

| | |
|---|----|
| Houses originally designated but not yet represented | 28 |
| Suggested additions | 6 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 34 |
| Present requirements already represented ... | 16 |
| <hr/> | |
| Estimated Slum Clearance needs (Total) ... | 50 |
| <hr/> | |

The picture, however, is not static and as we finish one scheme off, so do fresh patches emerge necessitating treatment. There are often complicated areas where piecemeal sales of small terraced cottages have taken place and where the short life envisaged expires, leaving the Council faced with the demolition and re-housing of the owners.

The survey must, however, close on a serious note of warning. The whole housing situation is baulked and slowed by the original purpose of Council Housing being misapplied. The intention was originally for badly housed and necessitous cases to be aided and re-habilitated. Their parents having enjoyed a well-fitted, subsidised Council House, the married sons and daughters live at home until impossible situations of overcrowding arise, and demand in their turn re-housing on the same terms as their parents. On a par with these cases are the numerous instances of under-occupation of two and three bedroomed houses.

Not only is this far removed from the purpose of Council House provision, but it means that families living in private rented houses, whose landlords are not permitted to overcrowd the dwellings, do not get equal consideration.

With around a thousand Council Houses in occupation and a presumed vacancy rate of say 5 per cent, some 45 houses should become available each year. If only half of these were applied to necessary slum clearance and the remainder allocated to general needs, the blot of slums languishing for years would be easily eradicated.

1.—INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

| | |
|---|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 360 |
| (b) No. of inspections, formal or informal for the purposes | 608 |

- (2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :
- (a) No. found during year 116
- (3) No. of dwellings found during year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit 208

2.—CLEARANCE AREAS HOUSING ACT, 1936-57, AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954.

- (1) No. of dwelling houses demolished during year in Clearance Areas :
- (a) Unfit houses Nil
- (b) Other houses Nil
- (2) No. of persons displaced Nil

3.—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

- | | <i>No. of
Houses</i> | <i>Persons
Displaced</i> |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Houses demolished or closed during the year : | | |
| (a) Housing Act, 1957 : | | |
| (i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 17(1)) | 24 | 31 |
| (ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Sections 16, 17 and 35, and still in force ... | 1 | 4 |
| (iii) Parts of building closed (Section 18) | Nil | Nil |
| (b) Housing Act, 1949 : | | |
| (i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2) | Nil | Nil |
| (c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 : | | |
| (i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2) | Nil | Nil |

(2) Repairs during the year :

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ... | 107 |
| (b) | Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied : | |
| | (i) By owners | 44 |
| | (ii) By local authority in default of owners... | Nil |
| (c) | Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Section 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit : | |
| | (i) By owners | 7 |
| | (ii) By local authority in default of owners... | Nil |
| (d) | Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ... | 4 |

4.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954)

Nil.

5.—HOUSING ACT, 1949 : IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS, ETC.

No action was taken in the district to implement the improvement of private or publicly owned houses with public funds.

6.—RENT ACT, 1957.

Analysis of action taken by Local Authority under Repair procedure.

Part I : Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | Number of applications for certificates | 8 |
| (2) | Number of decisions not to issue certificates ... | Nil |

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (3) | Number of decisions to issue certificates | 7 |
| (a) | in respect of some but not all defects ... | 3 |
| (b) | in respect to all defects | 4 |
| (4) | Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule | Nil |
| (5) | Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ... | Nil |
| (6) | Number of Certificates issued | 7 |

Part II : Applications for Cancellation of Certificates :

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| (7) | Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates | 3 |
| (8) | Objection by tenants to cancellation of Certificates | Nil |
| (9) | Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection | Nil |
| (10) | Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ... | 3 |

7.—ERECTION OF NEW HOMES.

| | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) | By Local Authority | Nil |
| (b) | By other Authorities | Nil |
| (c) | By other bodies and persons | 55 |

8.—HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

STANDARD GRANTS

| Action during the year : | No. of schemes | No. of dwellings or other buildings affected |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| (a) Submitted to local authority ... | | 28 |
| (b) Approved by local authority ... | | 28 |
| (c) Work completed | | 23 |

9.—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) *Conversions* : Only three middens and two pail closets still remain to remind us of the privy midden which once befouled our living areas. The struggle has been worthwhile and a water-borne system is the boon many generations have aspired to. The hardcore pose no technical problems but that of house demolition and one case only, that of the water department reservoir cottage, awaits a sewage treatment solution.

(b) *Vehicles* : The year saw the inception of our new vehicle scheme to modernise the scavenging of the district. We have acquired a modern mechanical bin-lifting lorry which discharges simultaneously the triple lift and in a labour saving and dustless fashion has taken the load off the staff.

A second rear loader was also bought and this vehicle it is anticipated will provide a more rational tool than the smaller and dirtier side loaders which have coped with the burden so long.

(c) *Tipping* : A most satisfactory tip is being maintained with the aid of the tractor at Edge Hall Road and a re-claimed piece of agricultural land has been offered to the land-owner.

(d) *Salvage* : This service, which includes collections from shops, makes serious inroads into the refuse collection time. Schedules are disturbed by needs for baling and loading. The necessity to split up the garaging of vehicles and paper storage whilst our old depot was demolished and the new depot built has again caused delays. Salvage is very much a cinderella of the refuse service and with falling prices and demand we see it more as a drag on the whole task rather than as an economic and beneficial adjunct as it was in the days of shortage.

(e) *Staff* : Sickness and rising ages of workers made serious inroads on the scheduled programmes. There are of course bigger calls on the service as plot after plot blossoms into building estates. It might be politic to consider some kind of incentive scheme to reach the "weekly round" aim.

The Council's policy to remove all types of extraneous rubbish from domestic premises bears fruit in the tidier appearance of the back streets and side roads. The overall picture is, therefore, one of progress towards the aim of more regular and cleaner refuse collection and disposal.

The bulkier nature of refuse, the changing trends towards cleaner air and no backing-up the fire with rubbish, the growth of new housing estates and more packages from the trade make the life of the refuse collector one of increasing complexity. That we have managed to change over to cleaner methods and cope with the increases mentioned shows that we have the nucleus for a satisfactory service. The disruptions of our depot will be solved in the coming year and we look forward with confidence to the task of helping to keep Orrell tidy.

The next step necessary is no doubt for investigation into the paper sack method of refuse storage and collection, offering as it does speedy and cleanly domestic handling, and giving a lighter and cleaner job to the employees.

(f) *Summary of Refuse Collection :*

| | | 1960 | | 1961 |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----|---------|
| No. of Ashpits and Privies emptied | ... | 178 | ... | 182 |
| No. of Bins emptied | ... .. | 146,544 | ... | 134,514 |
| No. of Loads of Refuse removed | ... | 2,411 | ... | 2,178 |

(g) *Disinfestation :* The perennial scourge of the fly and cockroach in our houses and food premises is the main source of risk which we face from insects.

The newer chemicals have proved adequate to control such pests and it is only an attitude of mind which permits infestations to persist and threaten our health and comfort.

The need to educate the public in the hygiene of refuse control and prevention in general is still very real.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-1957 : The disappearance of the age old unpacked foods is a mixed blessing to the consumer, however easy it makes the dealers' life.

Whilst suitably sized packs for a single meal are convenient for the housewife as well, the risks of staleness arise and the skill of the shopkeeper is no longer the barrier between the consumer and the poorer types of commodity. But again, the possibility of packers using unsuitable types of food are small and this is again a lesser risk in the newer fields of freeze drying and frozen foods. It has always been an accepted fact in canning and bottling that no blemished or suspect stock passes the scrutiny of the factory controllers and quality experts.

Thus the trend towards packaged food has swept from the shop counters the bulk of our raw foodstuffs but unprotected and easily contaminated fish, fowl, vegetables and cooked confectionery still tend to be exposed to conditions which call for stricter control.

The move to mobile shops has again brought its problems and lower standards of hygiene of vehicles and personal cleanliness are unfortunately the rule rather than the reverse. Only where ice-cream is vended is the standard high enough and this once lampooned trade has met our standards of cleanliness and now approaches milk standards of purity.

As far as the Food Hygiene Regulations are concerned, our main structural requirements having been met we have to struggle to maintain the cleanly use of premises. Floors and walls at the rear of working tables require attention and undersnading of the properties of the new and synthetic floor coverings and finishings is necessary.

Far too many shop-keepers and food processing premises rely on the old-fashioned and inadequate concrete floors and unprotected plaster walls with the resultant "pick-up" of grease and rancid flavours following prolonged use.

In drainage of processing premises the use of the newer detergents and solvents has revolutionised cleansing routines.

However, the persistence of insects and rodents makes the surveillance of food premises very necessary and the buffer of the Public Health Department between the public and impure food in still to be maintained.

An effort of some importance was made this year to clear up the immediate environment of some of our food premises. Old and redundant stock, utensils and often derelict buildings have been swept away and the task of the refuse collectors has been correspondingly heavy. This has been a "once over" operation and has resulted in closer control over refuse arrangements and vermin and insect control.

Food Condemnation: The following foodstuffs were surrendered and condemned during the year:

- 17,305 lb. of Tomato Pulp.
- 41 lb. of Apricot Pulp.
- 80 lb. Eviscerated Chicken.
- 18 lb. 9 ozs. Cooked Ham.
- 10 lb. of Ox Tongue.

Licensed Premises : With the influx of vast new estates on our perimeter the older Licensed Premises are being adapted or re-built to cater for the " improved " tastes.

Whilst we are glad to see swept away some of the grim and inadequate houses, all the chrome and polish does not automatically make for hygiene.

There is a lack of co-operation from the brewers and licensing authorities to ensure that even the new premises meet our hygienic standards of design and one recent new hotel had to be altered to comply with our sanitary standards.

Milk and Dairies : The rationalisation of the licensing procedure whereby multiple licences are no longer necessary should be augmented by a similar need to control quality through one authority. Far too much time is wasted by Councils who duplicate samples already taken by the parent licensing authority.

Supplies coming from pasteurising establishments usually in larger Boroughs and Cities like Liverpool, should not need the local sampling routines and a saving of manpower for more urgent tasks would result if some closer liaison was established.

| | | | <i>No. of Samples</i> | <i>Satis- factory</i> | <i>Unsatis- factory</i> | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| (a) | Raw Milk : | | | | | |
| (1) | Tuberculosis : biological | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Methylene Blue ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | Nil |
| (b) | Pasteurised : | | | | | |
| (1) | Phosphatase (for heat treatment) ... | 11 | ... | 9 | ... | 2 |
| (2) | Methylene Blue ... | 5 | ... | 5 | ... | Nil |
| (c) | Sterilised ... | 6 | ... | 6 | ... | Nil |

Food Premises : Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at the end of the year :

| <i>Type of Business</i> | <i>No.</i> |
|--|------------|
| General Grocers and Provision Dealers ... | 36 |
| Greengrocers and Fruiterers (licensed, those selling wet fish, game, etc.) ... | 10 |

| <i>Type of Business</i> | <i>No.</i> |
|---|------------|
| Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.) | 1 |
| Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.) | 11 |
| Bakers and/or Confectioners | 4 |
| Fried Fish Shops | 4 |
| Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. | 14 |
| Licensed Premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and similar establishments | 25 |
| Others | 14 |

Number of food premises, by type, registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under local acts :

| <i>Type of Business</i> | <i>No. Registered 31.12.61</i> | <i>No. of inspections made during the year</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Ice-cream—Sale and/or Storage ... | 30 | 44 |
| Preserved Food Premises | 6 | 39 |
| Lancs. C.C. (G.P. Act) 1938-57 : | | |
| Licensed Hawkers | 11 | 36 |

Inspections : The following number of inspections of food premises other than those referred to above were made during the year :

| | |
|---|----|
| Bakehouses | 39 |
| Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens | 50 |
| Grocers' Shops | 43 |
| Greengrocers | 36 |
| Butchers' Shops | 46 |
| Fish Fryers' Premises and preserved foods ... | 44 |
| Miscellaneous | 31 |
| Confectioners | 38 |
| Dairies | 16 |
| Notices served | 21 |

Meat : There are no licensed slaughter houses within the District. Butchers purchase supplies from Wigan or Stanley Abattoirs.

Regular inspection of all butchers' shops and of the meat found in the shops has been maintained throughout the year. Attention is paid to the condition of delivery vehicles which in some cases call for improvement. There has been an improvement in meat temperature conditions. Temperature checks are now made on cooked foodstuffs held for sale, including frozen as well as cooked foods.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-54 : No animals were slaughtered within the district during the year.

10.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever : There were 8 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year.

Diphtheria : No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year maintaining the clear record of the District over the past fourteen years.

The following statistics relate to the year 1961, and show the number of children resident in Orrell who were immunised and vaccinated.

| <i>Type</i> | <i>Pre-School Children</i> | | <i>School Children</i> | | <i>Adults</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus) | 211 | ... | 17 | ... | Nil |
| Diphtheria Re-inforcing Injections | 1 | ... | 47 | ... | Nil |
| Poliomyelitis : Primary ... | 177 | ... | 75 | ... | 539 |
| Re-inforcing ... | 144 | ... | 624 | ... | 147 |
| Smallpox Vaccinations : | | | | | |
| Primary | 107 | ... | 5 | ... | 2 |
| Re-vaccination | Nil | ... | Nil | ... | 9 |

Pneumonia : There were no cases of acute primary pneumonia.

Measles : 249 cases of this disease were notified.

Poliomyelitis : There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year.

Cancer : There were 15 deaths attributable to Cancer.

Facilities for Radium Treatment for Orrell residents is available at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester centre.

Food Poisoning : No cases were reported during the year.

Dysentery : No cases were reported during the year.

Tuberculosis : Two new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. No deaths were attributable to the disease. Treatment is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, and Orrell cases attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
 NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1961.

| Notifiable Diseases | Total cases at all ages | Age Periods Years | | | | | | | | | | Total deaths | Outward hospital transfer | Inward death transfer |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | —1 | —2 | —3 | —4 | —5 | —10 | —15 | —25 | —45 | 65 and over | | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | (a) 8 | — | — | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | (b) | (c) | d) |
| Measles ... | 249 | 6 | 20 | 34 | 43 | 37 | 109 | — | — | — | — | | | |
| Tuberculosis : Respiratory ... | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | | | |
| Totals ... | 259 | 6 | 20 | 34 | 43 | 45 | 109 | — | — | 2 | — | | | |

Total ... Nil.

